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May 24, 2002

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Boston Edison Company, D.T.E. 01-78 (Phase II)

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing is the Joint Motion to Defer Evidentiary Hearings in the above-referenced case. The Joint Motion is filed by Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the "Company") and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. Also included is a Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Judith Laster at 617-727-2200, extension 3431. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert N. Werlin

Enclosures

cc: William Stevens, Hearing Officer
Service List

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric

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D.T.E. 01-78 (Phase II)

JOINT MOTION TO DEFER EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the "Company") and the Attorney General of Commonwealth (the "Attorney General") (together, the "Parties") request that the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department") defer evidentiary hearings in the above-captioned proceeding, now scheduled for May 30 and May 31, 2002, for the purpose of allowing sufficient time and attention to be committed to settlement negotiations between the Parties.

The Parties currently are actively involved in settlement discussions in an effort to resolve issues in this case. The Parties' ability to devote sufficient time and attention to these negotiations, rather than to the preparation required for hearings, is critical to the Parties' ability to bring this case to a conclusion through settlement, and thus serves the public interest. Moreover, although the Parties share the Department's desire to proceed expeditiously with this proceeding, the expenditure of resources by all involved (including the Department) will be reduced if the Parties are able to conclude a settlement of issues.

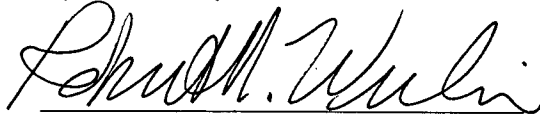
Accordingly, the parties request that the Department suspend the procedural schedule insofar as it requires the commencement of evidentiary hearings on May 30,

2002.¹ The Parties will report back to the Hearing Officer on or before June 7, 2002 with a status report on the settlement discussions.

Respectfully Submitted,

BOSTON EDISON COMPANY
d/b/a NSTAR Electric

By its attorneys,



Robert N. Werlin
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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
MASSACHUSETTS



Joseph W. Rogers
Judith Laster
Assistant Attorneys General
Regulated Industries Division
Office of the Attorney General
200 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114

Dated: May 24, 2002

¹ The Parties do not request that the procedural schedule be delayed with the regard to the ongoing discovery phase of the proceeding. The Company intends to complete its responses to outstanding information requests pursuant to the existing procedural schedule.

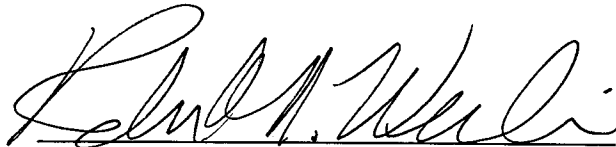
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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) D.T.E. 01-78 (Phase II)
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon the Department of Telecommunications and parties of record in accordance with the requirements of 220 C.M.R. 1.05 (Department's Rules of Practice and Procedures).



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Dated: May 24, 2002